

MARINES BASE LIFE



▼ **MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
MIRAMAR, Calif.** – A young girl finds a better view during President Bush's visit to Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar Aug. 14, 2003. The president spoke to a crowd of about 10,000 people. He spoke on a number of issues related to the military, thanked the Marines and sailors for their service to the nation and vowed to remain focused on the war against terror.

Photo by Cpl. Ethan E. Locke

▼ **Feb. 12, 2004**

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines deploy from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., bound for Iraq.

▼ **Feb. 16, 2004**

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 332 heads back to Marine Corps Station Iwakuni, Japan, after a four-week deployment in Australia for Operation Southern Frontier. The unit is based in Beaufort, S.C., but deployed to Iwakuni as a part of the Unit Deployment Program.

▼ **March 3, 2004**

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269 departs Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., for Haiti in support of a contingency operation as part of the Alert Contingency Marine Air Ground Task Force. The unit teams with 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

▼ **March 5, 2004**

Marines and sailors from 1st Bn., 5th Marines, depart Okinawa for a six-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Feb. 23, 2004
▲ Ralph Nader announces his intention to run as an independent candidate in the November 2004 presidential election.

▲ **Feb. 28, 2004**

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 begins its first flight operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.



By Lt. Col. Greg Reeder, HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington

BASE LIFE

WHETHER ON AN ISLAND in the Pacific Ocean, the high desert or woodland expanse, our Marine Corps bases provide a place for replenishment and recharging. Where else can you go from training with deadly weapons systems to jaunt at the beach all in one day?

Our bases, stations and camps mark each day with the raising of the flag. Children dismount their bikes, commissary shoppers stop their carts and cars come to a halt to honor those that serve and those that have gone before. A flurry of activities follows. There are schools to attend, waves to surf, movies to see, amphibious landings to watch and the sounds of freedom—like tanks and jets—to hear.

Woven into the fabric of service to Corps and country are the threads of life aboard our Marine Corps bases. A mixture of culture and community where joys are shared, bonds rekindled, tears shed and life renewed—base life offers a foundation for the Marines and families that serve our Corps. **M**



▲ CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa, Japan – Pfc. Michael Constantinoff and Cpl. Erik Sherlund push Lance Cpl. Craig Walker as he blindly navigates a “krazy kart” through the Recycle Wars course during the Camp Foster October Fest Oct. 12, 2003. Four teams ran the course twice in celebration of America Recycles Day and to raise money for their Marine Corps birthday ball. The four teams, limited to eight members—two scroungers, two runners and four constructors, scrounged through junk piles to gather the materials for their karts and they had about two and a half hours to build them. *Photo by Cpl. Cindy L. Pray*

➤ MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. –

Lance Cpl. Michael Inscho works on a wall mural April 23, 2004. The Bath, N.Y., native is a motor transportation operator holding a dispatching billet with Service Co., 8th Communication Bn., II Marine Expeditionary Force. He spends most of his free time drawing and prefers landscapes and cars but is honored to exhibit his talent on the walls of his shop. Inscho has painted several murals throughout the motor pool and continues to do so whenever he has spare time. “I just love drawing,” he said. “It relaxes me and allows me to express my individuality, even while in the Marine Corps.”

Photo by Pfc. Matthew K. Hacker



▼ March 6, 2004

Martha Stewart is found guilty of conspiracy, making false statements, and obstruction of justice in connection with insider trading.

▼ March 8, 2004

The Iraqi Governing Council signs an interim constitution in Baghdad, Iraq.

▲ March 8, 2004

About 25,000 Marines and sailors are expected to deploy to western Iraq to conduct security and stability operations.

▲ March 9, 2004

John Allen Muhammad, the Washington sniper, is sentenced to death for the October 2002 killings.

▼ March 11, 2004

Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 returns to Iraq to provide the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing with logistical support and force protection.

▼ March 21, 2004

Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 24, based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, begin arriving on the Korean peninsula in support of Exercise Foal Eagle '04.



▲ MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON – Sgt. Maj. Alfred McMichael faces Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael W. Hagee after relinquishing his post as Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps June 26, 2003. Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada relieved McMichael, becoming the 15th Marine to hold the post of highest enlisted Marine. McMichael reported to the European Command to work for former Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen James L. Jones.

Photo by Cpl. Travis W. Shiflett

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. –

Sgt. Michael A. Simmons, a bronze star recipient, received the AT&T Defense of Freedom Award at the American Veterans Awards ceremony Nov. 21, 2003, for actions he performed while under fire in Iraq. The 24-year-old vehicle commander with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn., and native of Union, Mo., stands with his former crew, Lance Cpls. Mark A. Rodriguez, of Del Rio, Texas, and De H. Pham, of San Diego.

Photo by Cpl. Shawn C. Rhodes

Marine Profile: Sgt. Michael A. Simmons



▲ **CAMP HANSEN, Okinawa, Japan** – Heather Hyson climbs a rope on the obstacle course here during family day May 15, 2004. Hyson is a sixth grader at Zukeran Elementary School. Family day gave family members the opportunity to see and participate in some of the activities that service members support during a typical work day.

Photo by Cpl. Ryan Walker

➤ **MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO** – The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow presents the colors at the Headquarters and Service Battalion sergeants major relief and appointment ceremony April 2, 2004. During the ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Armando Escobedo took over as H&S Bn.'s senior enlisted Marine, relieving Sgt. Maj. Annanias Rose, who retired from the Marine Corps during the same ceremony after 30 years of service. Barstow's color guard is the only mounted color guard in the Marine Corps.

Photo by Sgt. Ryan Smith



▲ **MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – Col. Robert P. Wagner III, commanding officer, Weapons and Field Training Bn., cuts the traditional birthday cake on the parade deck at Edson Range Nov. 11, 2003, commemorating the 228th birthday of the Corps. The guest of honor for the ceremony was Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region.

Photo by Master Sgt. Janice M. Hagar



▼ **March 24, 2004**

The U.S. Supreme Court agrees to review the constitutionality of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance to determine if the phrase violates the separation between church and state.

▼ **March 24, 2004**

1 Marine Expeditionary Force officially accepts authority for Al Anbar province, Iraq, from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

▲ **March 26, 2004**

Another 2,000 Marines join the 12,000 troops in Afghanistan intensifying the hunt for Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders.

▲ **March 31, 2004**

Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice testifies in public and under oath to the 9/11 commission.



▼ **MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII** – The 9th Annual Combat Service Support Group 3 Swamp Romp made a muddy splash here July 26, 2003, as more than 1,200 thrill-seekers from around the island raced to get down and dirty. The six-person teams trudged through deep sand, mud pits, man-made obstacles and ocean surf for more than five miles and nearly an hour to reach the finish.

Photo by Cpl. Jason E. Miller



CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq – Lance Cpl. Nicholas R. Bruce waits to roll out of Camp Taqaddum as a passenger on a convoy delivering critical supplies to Fallujah in support of Operation Vigilant Resolve April 6, 2004. Later that night, insurgents ambushed the convoy, wounding eight and crippling several vehicles. The convoy was stopped for more than 12 hours before it could continue to Camp Fallujah. Vigilant Resolve was launched to re-establish order in Fallujah and to account for the March 31 murders of four U.S. citizens who were dragged through the streets and murdered there.

Bruce is a 20-year-old native of Blythewood, S.C.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon



Marine Profile: Lance Cpl. Nicholas R. Bruce

▼ **March 31, 2004**

Four civilian contractors are killed by insurgents in Iraq.

▼ **April 5, 2004**

Marines and Coalition forces begin Operation Vigilant Resolve in Al Anbar province, Iraq. The operation is designed to pacify violent elements in the area.



< **SAN DIEGO** – Lance Cpl. Mario Reyes, of Chicago, says a final goodbye to his family on his cellular phone prior to boarding the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer Jan. 14, 2004. The ship departed on a deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II force rotation. More than 200 Marines and 900 sailors embarked aboard the Wasp-class ship.

Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark J. Rebilas



▲ **MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – Lance Cpl. Andrew Cole of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit gets buried in sand by fellow Marines at Onslow Beach during the 24th MEU Family Day June 18, 2004. Cole is a combat engineer with Engineer Detachment, MEU Service Support Group 24. The family day was the last opportunity for the families to get together before the unit departed for deployment to Iraq.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Sarah A. Beavers

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO – Staff Sgt. Arnold J. Towle, from Farmington, N.H., is the senior drill instructor for Plt. 1063, B Co. He adjusted his work habits to care for his daughter, Julia, who was born five weeks early with holes in her heart. She spent the first five weeks of her life in an incubator and was on medication for the first six months to prevent her body from overworking to breathe. Towle's command supported him and gave him time off when they could. Julia is now doing well and visits a heart specialist every three months to monitor the holes. "During core values time with the recruits, I tell them how the Marine Corps is one huge family with one big support system," said Towle. "By becoming a Marine you just add onto your family."

Photo by Lance Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr.

Marine Profile: Staff Sgt. Arnold J. Towle

▼ **April 7, 2004**

Marines in Fallujah, Iraq, use air support to break through the wall of a mosque complex that insurgents were using to fire on them.

▼ **April 15, 2004**

Marine Corps and Army engineers finish construction of a barrier around much of Fallujah, Iraq, blocking off the majority of pathways leading into or out of the city, and deterring insurgents from bringing in weapons and gear.

▲ **April 10, 2004**

Coalition forces unilaterally suspended offensive military operations in Fallujah, Iraq.

▼ **April 19, 2004**

United States, coalition and Iraqi officials agree "to implement a full and unbroken cease-fire" in the city of Fallujah, Iraq.

▲ **April 19, 2004**

John Negroponte, the current American ambassador to the United Nations, is announced to be the U.S. ambassador to Iraq after the scheduled June 30 transfer of sovereignty to Iraq.

▼ **April 24, 2004**

Spec. Pat Tillman, who gave up a promising football career after Sept. 11, 2001, to join the Army, is killed in Khost province in southeastern Afghanistan.



< **MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO** – Lance Cpl. Aaron Card, military police officer, Provost Marshal's Office, stands watch at Gate 2, the Barnett Ave. entrance here Oct. 31, 2003. Card, along with many other Marines, wore a surgical mask to protect against the thick smoke polluting the air across the San Diego area after three major fires raged out of control in late October. The fires destroyed nearly 1,200 homes and burned more than 315,000 acres.

Photo by Cpl. Ethan E. Rocke



▲ **MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** –

Arnold Schwarzenegger visits the crowd packed into the base theater for a sneak preview of his new movie "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" June 26, 2004. "It (was) my token of appreciation to say thank you to all of you,"

Schwarzenegger, who decided to give Pendleton service members first crack at his first Terminator movie in 12 years. "The Marines are the real terminators. Whenever they see a problem, they terminate it," the actor said.

Photo by Cpl. Matthew S. Richards